

**RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

PRESENT: Mike Retzky – Chairman, Gerry Koss – Vice Chairman, John Bulian, James Goldstein, Patty Carey, Ed Olsen

ABSENT: Dmitry Gorenburg

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Mike Retzky at the Charles River Room at PSAB.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of October 14, 2015:** Mr. Bulian made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Project Updates: Construction:** Mr. Olsen provided an update. The safety fencing installation has begun and is expected to be completed within a week. Mr. Olsen will meet with contractor Joe Cataldo and the Eversource contractor Northern Tree later this week to discuss the rail trail project schedule and the Eversource transmission line project. It needs to be determined whether the tree work should be done prior to the surfacing work. The surface work is expected to begin once the fence work is completed, and will move quickly. The street crossings will be the final stage of work. Parks and Forestry has removed two fallen trees. Mr. Goldstein asked about the MBTA fence at the Charles River bridge. Mr. Olsen noted that the fence contractor repaired the fence at no charge. Ms. Carey stated that the Town Manager is reaching out to MBTA to get an update on the review of that fence this past summer, at which time the MBTA indicated they would repair and likely replace with a stronger fence. Ms. Carey expressed appreciation to the Needham Exchange Club for cleaning up the Town Forest access route to the rail trail, putting up trail markers and some signs.
- 3. Draft Regulations and Signs:** As all approvals from other Town departments were received prior to the last meeting, the next step is to formalize the recommendation for approval through Town Manager.
- 4. Trail Opening and Ribbon Cutting Event:** At the previous meeting, a discussion was held with Bay Colony Rail Trail representatives about when an event could be held. A “soft opening” on December 5th was discussed, with the major opening event in May. Mr. Goldstein gave an update on the scope of the “soft opening” but it doesn’t appear that enough work will be done on the trail to safely have it ready for a large event in December. Mr. Bulian suggested recommending a scaled down event on December 19th. Mr. Retzky noted that the weather will dictate how well the project moves forward, so that it is difficult to state for sure if a date in December will work. Mr. Goldstein will contact BCRTA and suggest a low key event on December 19th or waiting until May.
- 5. Eversource Transmission Line Tree Work:** Discussed earlier.

6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7 PM. Location will be determined. Ms. Carey will provide construction updates in December.

Mr. Bulian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:34 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Koss. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Ex-Officio Member